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One Hundred Fourteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

It has come to our attention that the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) is currently considering the "Revitalization of the AM Radio Service" (Docket 13-249). As part of this effort, the Commission is considering proposals to lower nighttime interference protections afforded to Class A AM radio stations. It is our understanding that, if completed, this could impact the ability to provide timely alerts and warnings to the public through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.

The Emergency Alert System relies on the availability of Primary Entry Point (PEP) stations for the distribution of Presidential messages and other emergency alerts. According to FEMA, 25 PEP stations are Class A AM radio stations. In comments to the Commission regarding the Emergency Alert System provided in June, FEMA urged "the FCC not to authorize reduced protection to Class A AM skywave service" because "the reach of a Presidential message at a critical time would be diminished."<sup>1</sup>

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, we urge you to ensure the continued ability to provide timely emergency alerts and warnings to the public. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



DANIEL M. DONOVAN  
Chairman

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,  
Response, and Communications



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,  
Response, and Communications

<sup>1</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency comments to FCC Alerting Paradigm Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 81 Fed. Reg. 57, June 8, 2016.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Donald M. Payne  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1725 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Payne:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the "Revitalization of the AM Radio Service" proceeding's impact on Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) ability to provide timely emergency alerts and warnings to the public.

This issue is one of many that Commission staff is considering as they review the record in this proceeding. In the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we specifically asked what effects, if any, would changes in protection of Class A AM stations have on Emergency Alert System Primary Entry Point stations during emergencies. And, as you note in your letter, the FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Program Management Office filed comments in this proceeding. I can assure you that Commission staff will take FEMA's comments and views into consideration as they continue their review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Daniel Donovan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1725 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Donovan:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the "Revitalization of the AM Radio Service" proceeding's impact on Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) ability to provide timely emergency alerts and warnings to the public.

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